

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A combined nutcracker and bottle opener,
5 comprising:
first and second body members each having a
first end portion and a second end portion opposite the
first end portion, the first end portions being
connected in overlapping relation for relative pivotal
10 movement about a pivotal axis therethrough for allowing
pivotally moving the second end portions between a
substantially overlapping position and a range of
angularly related positions about the pivotal axis, the
second end portion of the second body member including a
15 bottle opener which is at least substantially covered by
the first body member when in the overlapping position
and uncovered and usably positioned when the second end
portions are in at least one of the angularly related
positions; and
20 a pair of elongate legs having proximal end
portions connected to and extending outwardly from the
second end portions of the body members, respectively,
the legs being positioned in generally parallel, side-
by-side relation when the second end portions of the
25 body are in the overlapping relation and being
correspondingly angularly related when the second end
portions are in the angularly related positions, the
legs having distal end portions opposite the proximal
end portions thereof and elongate intermediate leg
30 portions extending between the proximal and distal end
portions, respectively, the intermediate leg portions
adjacent the proximal ends of the legs having opposing
portions adapted for receiving and holding a nut or a
bottle cap therebetween such that the legs can be

squeezed toward one another for applying a compressive force against the nut or bottle cap.

2. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
5 of claim 1, wherein at least one of the opposing portions includes a concave surface adapted for receiving and cradling a portion of a nut or bottle cap.

3. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
10 of claim 1, wherein the bottle opener comprises an edge at one end of a slot facing the distal end portion of the second leg, the slot being adapted for receiving a circumferential side of a bottle cap such that the edge can contact a lower edge of the circumferential side as
15 the second leg contacts an upper surface portion of the bottle cap for prying the bottle cap from a bottle.

4. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
of claim 3, wherein the intermediate leg portion of the
20 second leg comprises a concave portion adapted for receiving the upper surface portion of the bottle cap opposite the side received in the slot.

5. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
25 of claim 1, wherein the first leg can be pivoted to a position oriented at from about a 100° to 300° angle to the parallel position so as to be engageable against the second leg when the bottle opener is in engagement with a bottle cap on a bottle, for prying the bottle cap from
30 the bottle.

6. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
of claim 1, wherein at least one of the opposing
portions of the legs include elements for conformingly
35 holding a side edge of a bottle cap.

7. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener of claim 1, wherein the body portions have a shape resembling a human lower torso and the legs each have a shape resembling a human leg.

8. A combined nutcracker and bottle opener, comprising:

a first elongate leg having a proximal end portion, a distal end portion opposite the proximal end portion, and an intermediate leg portion extending between the proximal and distal end portions, the proximal end portion having a front surface portion, a rear surface portion, and opposite side portions extending therebetween, one of the side portions including a sidewardly and longitudinally open slot therein;

a second elongate leg having a proximal end portion, an opposite distal end portion, and an intermediate leg portion extending therebetween, the proximal end portion of the second leg having a shape and size so as to be cooperatively received in the slot of the first leg and pivotally connected thereto for relative pivotal movement of the legs about a front to rear extending axis, between a position wherein the leg portions are generally parallel and a range of positions wherein the leg portions are angularly related;

the intermediate leg portions of the legs having opposing inner surface portions adjacent to the proximal ends of the legs adapted for receiving and holding a nut or a cap on a bottle therebetween such that the legs can be grasped and squeezed toward one another for applying a compressive force against the nut or cap for cracking the nut and twisting the cap relative to the bottle; and

the proximal end portion of the second leg including a bottle opener which is at least substantially concealed in the slot of the first leg when the legs are in the generally parallel closely spaced position and which is removed from the slot and in a usable position when the legs are pivoted one relative to the other to an angularly related open position.

9. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener of claim 8, wherein at least one of the opposing inner surface portions includes a concave surface adapted for receiving and cradling a portion of a nut or cap.

10. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener of claim 8, wherein the bottle opener comprises a slot facing the distal end portion of the second leg adapted for receiving a portion of a circumferential side of a bottle cap such that the second leg can be brought into contact with a top portion of the bottle cap adjacent an opposite side thereof, and an edge adjacent to the slot that can contact and apply a force against the bottle cap for prying the cap from a bottle as the second leg is brought into contact with and biased against the top portion of the bottle cap.

11. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener of claim 10, wherein the intermediate leg portion of the second leg comprises a concave portion adapted for receiving the top portion of the bottle cap opposite the side received in the slot.

12. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener of claim 8, wherein the first leg can be pivoted to a position oriented at from about a 100° to about a 300°

angle to the parallel position so as to be capable of contacting and applying the biasing force against the second leg.

5 13. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
of claim 8, wherein the opposing inner surface portions
of the legs each include a concave portion adapted for
receiving and holding a portion of a side edge of a
bottle cap to enable twisting the bottle cap from a
10 bottle on which it is located.

14. A combined nutcracker and bottle opener,
comprising:

15 a first elongate leg having a proximal end
portion, a distal end portion opposite the proximal end
portion, and an intermediate leg portion extending
between the proximal and distal end portions, the
proximal end portion having a front surface portion, a
rear surface portion, and opposite side portions
20 extending therebetween, one of the side portions
including a sidewardly and longitudinally open cavity
therein;

25 a second elongate leg having a proximal end
portion, an opposite distal end portion, and an
intermediate leg portion extending therebetween, the
proximal end portion of the second leg being
cooperatively received in the cavity of the first leg
and pivotally connected thereto for relative pivotal
movement of the legs generally on a plane through the
30 side portions of the proximal end of the first leg
between a position wherein the legs are at least
generally parallel and a range of positions wherein the
legs are angularly related, the proximal end portion of
the second leg including a bottle opener which is
35 located at least substantially within the cavity of the

first leg when generally parallel with the second leg
and exposed when the legs are angularly related;

the intermediate leg portions of the legs
having opposing inner surface portions including
5 opposing surface portions adjacent the proximal ends of
the legs adapted for receiving and holding a nut or a
bottle cap therebetween such that the legs can be
squeezed toward one another for applying a sufficient
compressive force against the nut for cracking the nut
10 and for holding the bottle cap for twisting from a
bottle.

15 15. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
of claim 14, wherein at least one of the opposing
surface portions adjacent the proximal ends of the legs
includes a concave surface portion adapted for receiving
and holding a portion of a nut or a bottle cap.

20 16. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
of claim 14, wherein the portion of at least one of the
opposing inner surface portions adapted for holding a
bottle cap includes a layer of a rubbery material for
engaging and gripping a serrated edge portion of a
bottle cap.

25 17. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
of claim 14, wherein the portion of at least one of the
opposing inner surface portions adapted for holding a
bottle cap includes a longitudinally extending groove
30 for holding an edge portion of a bottle cap.

18. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener
of claim 14, wherein the portions of the opposing inner
surface portions for holding a bottle cap are located
35 adjacent to the distal ends of the legs.

19. The combined nutcracker and bottle opener of claim 14, wherein the bottle opener comprises a protruding edge spaced from the inner surface of the
5 second leg so as to define a slot therebetween facing the distal end portion of the second leg, the slot being sufficiently wide for receiving a circumferential side portion of a bottle cap such that the protruding edge will be positioned to engage a circumferential edge of
10 the bottle cap for prying the cap from a bottle when the second leg is brought into biased contact with an upper surface the cap spaced from the circumferential side portion.

15 20. A combined nutcracker and bottle opener, comprising:
first and second body members each having an upper portion and a lower portion opposite the upper portion, the upper portions being connected in
20 overlapping relation for relative pivotal movement about a pivotal axis therethrough for allowing pivotally moving the lower portions between a substantially overlapping position and a range of angularly related positions about the pivotal axis; and
25 a pair of elongate legs having proximal end portions connected to the lower portions of the body members, respectively, the legs extending outwardly from the body members, the legs being generally parallel and in side-by-side relation when the lower portions of the
30 body are in the overlapping relation and angularly related when the lower portions are in the angularly related positions, the legs having distal end portions opposite the proximal end portions thereof and elongate intermediate leg portions between the proximal and
35 distal end portions, respectively, the intermediate leg

portions adjacent the proximal ends of the legs having
opposing portions adapted for receiving and holding a
nut therebetween such that the legs can be grasped
adjacent the distal end portions and squeezed toward one
5 another for applying a compressive force against the nut
sufficient for cracking a shell of the nut, and wherein
the intermediate leg portions have opposing elements for
holding opposite side edges of a bottle cap when the
legs are squeezed together to allow relatively twisting
10 the bottle cap and a bottle on which the cap is located
for removing the cap.